Alternative Action

The Alternative Action would include all the components of the Preferred Action except a double-circuit line would be constructed between corridor mile 75/2 (2 miles west of the Spokane River) and Bell Substation, a distance of about 9 miles. The purpose of this alternative would be to anticipate and provide for potential unknown future transmission needs without needing to find a new route out of the Bell Substation for another 500-kV line at a later date if the need should arise. Both sides of the double-circuit towers would be strung with conductors and connected to operate as a single-circuit line; it would be available for a second circuit at some unknown future date. The corridor and towers would be the same as shown on Figure 2-6. Estimated cost of the Alternative Action is $160 million.

No Action Alternative

Description of No Action

The No Action Alternative is traditionally defined as the status quo alternative. In this case, the No Action Alternative assumes the following scenario:

- BPA would not build a new transmission line to solve the problem identified in Chapter 1, nor would another entity.
- The amount of power that needs to be transferred from east to west would not diminish and probably would increase.
- Requirements to protect ESA-listed fish would not change, so dams in Montana would continue to generate power at current levels.

Impacts of the No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, BPA would continue to operate the existing West of Hatwai transmission path as it does now. Because the conditions and problems described in Chapter 1 would substantially increase the risk that this portion of the transmission system would overload, BPA would continue to implement ***remedial action schemes (RAS)*** to protect the existing system, as it has for several years. A RAS is a computer-driven set of actions to prevent an overload. If a major transmission line ***outage*** occurs, the transmission system would automatically take measures to protect itself, such as disconnecting generation or transmission. However, the amount of generation that would be dropped when one line is out of service is exceptionally large (up to 2250 MW), and the potential for dropping this amount is very high during summer. This level of reliance on RAS has the following risks: damage to generator plants when generation is disconnected suddenly, spill conditions at hydro projects that could violate